

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please replace the paragraph at page 41, lines 4 through 11 with the following paragraph:

A method for preparing a nucleic acid component of a sample for amplification includes contacting the sample with a porous support that deactivates a nucleic acid amplification inhibitor component of the sample and directing a fluid through the porous support, whereby the nucleic acid component of the sample is directed through at least a portion of the porous support and is separated from the support, thereby preparing the nucleic acid component for amplification. The sample is separated from raw sample components by a magnetic substrate. An apparatus suitable for conducting the method of the invention also is described.